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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: May 7, 2019

Dear Board: Please see the following update for tonight's meeting.

Downtown Planning Public Forum – May 14: A public forum to discuss downtown planning initiatives is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 14 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** in the historic Carnegie portion of the Athol Public Library. This forum builds upon a grant-funded exercise to envision short- and long-term action steps to improve conditions in the downtown area. BSC Group of Worcester is facilitating the effort with the Town Manager's office, Dept. of Public Works and Dept. of Planning and Development.



As you are aware, to date there have been several staff-level meetings and a public meeting with the Downtown Vitality Committee and the consultants. A desired outcome is to recommend action items to the Board of Selectmen so that policy guidance may be issued to staff. All are encouraged to attend and participate.

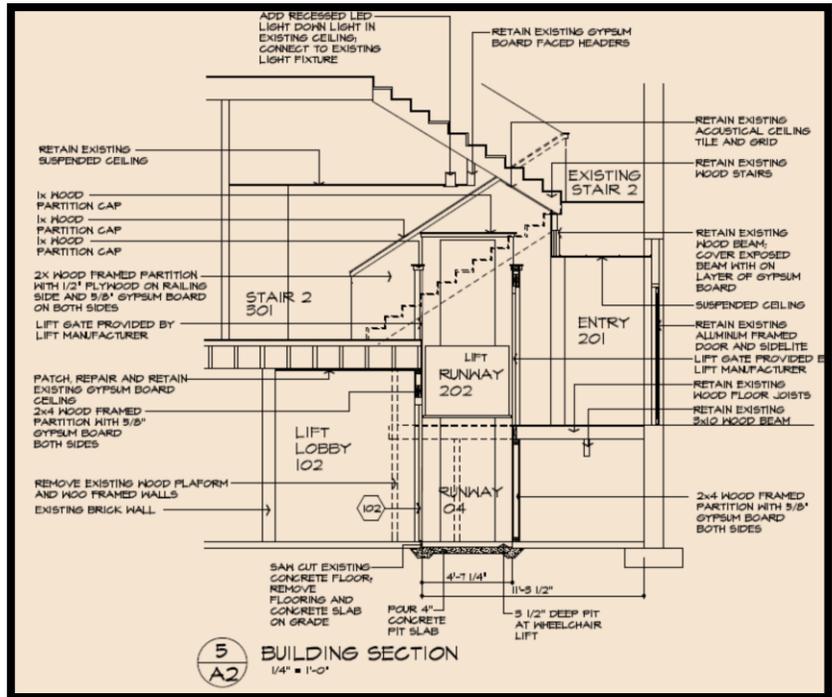
Exchange Street Bridget Project to Advance: A pre-construction meeting will be held this week with MIG Corp., of Acton, relative to reconstruction of the Exchange Street Bridget. The nearly \$2.9 million contract was awarded in April and work is expected to be complete by the end of calendar year 2019. More information on the scheduling, traffic controls and more will be forthcoming after the start-up session. Any traffic detours will be shared with the public in advance of the commencement of work.

Millers River Environmental Center

Accessible Lift Project Underway: Project architect Haynes, Lieneck & Smith has approved final submittals by Cornerstone Builders to initiate the installation of the accessible lift at 100 Main Street. This project is a true partnership between taxpayers and the private fundraising and gift of the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Mobilization and work began on yesterday and it is hoped that the project will be complete within 30 days though older buildings can reveal hidden conditions.

GreenCleanAthol: On April 27 a town-wide cleanup day driven primarily by volunteers was a tremendous success. Nearly 100 people came out under initially damp skies to collect **over two tons of trash and roughly 600 used tires** from the community. With assists from the Athol DPW, Pete’s Tire Barns and community service workers from the court system the day was a resounding success. At a de-briefing meeting on Monday night it was agreed that the Town would participate with the volunteers for both a spring and fall cleanup event.



Miscellaneous:

- Attended Rural Policy Advisory Commission training in Westboro relative to report development for state legislature.
- Participated in MART Advisory Board meeting.
- Held department head and development team meetings including MIIA rewards program discussion and insurance premium credit.
- Participated in conference call relative to ongoing construction activities at North Quabbin Commons and relative to driveway easement issues in favor of the Athol EDIC.
- Participated in a pre-planning meeting at L.S. Starrett relative to emergency response in dam failure scenario; full exercise to be held fall 2019.
- Attended YMCA ribbon-cutting for residential renovation project.
- Met with summer recreation program director and ARRSD Superintendent relative to utilizing ARMS for the 2019 program.